

PRE

3. Assumption; claim to notice.
Despise not these few ensuing pages; for never was any thing of this *pretence* more ingeniously imparted. *Evelyn.*
4. Claim true or false.
Spirits in our just *pretences* arm'd
Fell with us. *Milton.*
Primogeniture cannot have any *pretence* to a right of solely inheriting property or power. *Locke.*
5. *Shakespeare* uses this word with more affinity to the original Latin, for something threatened, or held out to terrify.
I have conceived a most faint neglect of late, which I have rather blamed as my own jealous curiosity, than as a very *pretence* and purpose of unkindness. *Shakespeare.*
In the great hand of God I stand, and thence
Against the undivulg'd *pretence* I fight
Of treas'rous malice. *Shakespeare. Macbeth.*
He hath writ this to feel my affection for your honour, and to no other *pretence* of danger. *Shakespeare. King Lear.*
- To PRETEND. *v. a.* [*pretendo*, Lat. *pretendere*, Fr.]
1. To hold out; to stretch forward. This is mere Latinity, and not used.
Lucanus, to lash his horses, bends
Prone to the wheels, and his left foot *pretends*. *Dryden.*
2. To portend; to forebode. Not in use.
All these movements seemed to be *pretended* by moving of the earth in *Suffex*. *Playward.*
3. To make any appearance of having; to allege falsely.
This let him know,
Left wilfully transgressing he *pretend*
Surprised. *Milton.*
What reason then can any man *pretend* against religion, when it is so apparently for the benefit, not only of human society, but of every particular person. *Tillotson.*
4. To show hypocritically.
'Tis their interest to guard themselves from those riotous effects of *pretended* zeal, nor is it less their duty. *D. of Piety.*
5. To hold out as a delusive appearance; to exhibit as a cover of something hidden. This is rather Latin.
Warn all creatures from thee
Henceforth; lest that too heav'nly form, *pretended*
To hellish falsehood, spare them. *Milton's Par. Lost.*
6. To claim. In this sense we rather say, *pretend* to.
Chiefs shall be grudging the part which they *pretend*. *Dry.*
Are they not rich? what more can they *pretend*? *Pope.*
- To PRETEND. *v. n.*
1. To put in a claim truly or falsely. It is seldom used without shade of censure.
What peace can be, where both to one *pretend*?
But they more diligent, and we more strong. *Dryden.*
In those countries that *pretend* to freedom, princes are subject to those laws which their people have chosen. *Swift.*
2. To presume on ability to do any thing; to profess presumptuously.
Of the ground of redness in this sea are we not fully satisfied; for there is another red sea, whose name we *pretend* not to make out from these principles. *Brown.*
- PRETENDER. *n. f.* [from *pretend*.] One who lays claim to any thing.
The prize was disputed only till you were seen; now all *pretenders* have withdrawn their claims. *Dryden.*
Whatever victories the several *pretenders* to the empire obtained over one another, they are recorded on coins without the least reflection. *Addison on Ancient Medals.*
The numerous *pretenders* to places would never have been kept in order, if expectation had been cut off. *Swift.*
To just contempt ye vain *pretenders* fall, *Pope.*
The people's fable and the scorn of all.
Pretenders to philosophy or good sense grow fond of this sort of learning. *Watts.*
- PRETENDINGLY. *adv.* [from *pretending*.] Arrogantly; presumptuously.
I have a particular reason to look a little *pretendingly* at present. *Collier on Pride.*
- PRETENSION. *n. f.* [*pretensio*, Lat. *pretentio*, Fr.]
1. Claim true or false.
But if to unjust things thou dost *pretend*,
Ere they begin, let thy *pretensions* end. *Denham.*
Men indulge those opinions and practices, that favour their *pretensions*. *L'Estrange.*
The commons demand that the consulship should lie in common to the *pretensions* of any Roman. *Swift.*
2. Fictitious appearance. A Latin phrase or sense.
This was but an invention and *pretension* given out by the Spaniards. *Bacon.*
- PRETER. *n. f.* [*præter*, Lat.] A particle, which prefixed to words of Latin original, signifies *be* *de*.
PRETERIMPERFECT. *adj.* In grammar, denotes the tense not perfectly past.
- PRETERIT. *adj.* [*præterit*, Fr. *præteritus*, Lat.] Past.
- PRETERITION. *n. f.* [*præteritio*, Fr. from *præterit*.] The act of going past; the state of being past.
- PRETERITNESS. *n. f.* [from *præterit*.] State of being past; not present; not futurity.

PRE

- We cannot conceive a *preterit* still backwards in infinitum, that never was present, as we can an endless futurity, that never will be present; so that though one is potentially infinite, yet nevertheless the other is positively finite: and this reasoning doth not at all affect the eternal existence of the adorable divinity, in whose invariable nature there is no past nor future. *Bentley's Sermon.*
- PRETERLAPSED. *adj.* [*præterlapsus*, Lat.] Past and gone.
We look with a superstitious reverence upon the accounts of *preterlapsed* ages. *Glanvill's Scen.*
Never was there so much of either, in any *preterlapsed* age, as in this. *Walker.*
- PRETERLEGAL. *adj.* [*præter* and *legal*.] Not agreeable to law.
I expected some evil customs *preterlegal*, and abuses personal, had been to be removed. *King Charles.*
- PRETERMISSION. *n. f.* [*prætermisio*, Fr. *prætermisio*, Lat.]
The act of omitting.
To PRETERMIT. *v. a.* [*prætermitto*, Lat.] To pass by.
The fees, that are termly given to these deputies, for recompence of their pains, I do purposely *pretermit*; because they be not certain. *Bacon.*
- PRETERNATURAL. *adj.* [*præter* and *natural*.] Different from what is natural; irregular.
We will enquire into the cause of this vile and *preternatural* temper of mind, that should make a man please himself with that, which can no ways reach those faculties, which nature has made the proper seat of pleasure. *Soull's Sermon.*
That form, which the earth is under at present, is *preternatural*, like a statue made and broken again. *Burnet.*
- PRETERNATURALLY. *adv.* [from *preternatural*.] In a manner different from the common order of nature.
Simple airs, *preternaturally* attenuated by heat, will make itself room, and break and blow up all that which resisteth it. *Bacon's Nat. Hist.*
- PRETERNATURALNESS. *n. f.* [from *preternatural*.] Manner different from the order of nature.
- PRETERPERFECT. *adj.* [*præteritum perfectum*, Lat.] A grammatical term applied to the tense which denotes time absolutely past.
The same natural aversion to loquacity has of late made a considerable alteration in our language, by closing in one syllable the termination of our *preterperfect* tenses, as *drown'd*, *walk'd*, for *drowned*, *walk'd*. *Addison's Spectator.*
- PRETERPLUSPERFECT. *adj.* [*præteritum plusquam perfectum*, Lat.] The grammatical epithet for the tense denoting time relatively past, or past before some other past time.
- PRETEXT. *n. f.* [*prætextus*, Lat. *pretextus*, Fr.] Pretence; false appearance; false allegation.
My *pretext* to strike at him admits
A good construction. *Shakespeare. Coriolanus.*
Under this *pretext*, the means he sought
To ruin such whose might did much exceed
His pow'r to wrong. *Daniel's Civil War.*
As chymists gold from brass by fire would draw,
Pretexts are into treason forg'd by law. *Denham.*
I shall not say with how much, or how little *pretext* of reason they managed those disputes. *Decay of Piety.*
They suck the blood of those they depend upon, under a *pretext* of service and kindness. *L'Estrange.*
- PRETOR. *n. f.* [*prætor*, Lat. *prætor*, Fr.] The Roman judge.
It is now sometimes taken for a mayor.
Good Cinna, take this paper;
And look you lay it in the *pretor's* chair. *Shakespeare.*
Porphyrius, whom you *Egypt's pretor* made,
Is come from Alexandria to your aid. *Dryden.*
An advocate, pleading the cause of his client before one of the *pretors*, could only produce a single witness, in a point where the law required two. *Spectator, N° 55b.*
- PRETORIAN. *adj.* [*prætorianus*, Lat. *pretorianus*, Fr.] Judicial; exercised by the *pretor*.
The chancery had the *pretorian* power for equity; the star-chamber had the censorial power for offences. *Bacon.*
- PRETTILY. *adv.* [from *pretty*.] Neatly; elegantly; pleasingly without dignity or elevation.
How *prettily* the young swain seems to wash
The hand was fair before. *Shakespeare. Winter's Tale.*
One faith *prettily*; in the quenching of the flame of a pe-silent ague, nature is like people that come to quench the fire of a house; so busy, as one letteth another. *Bacon.*
Children, kept out of ill company, take a pride to behave themselves *prettily*, after the fashion of others. *Locke.*
- PRETTINESS. *n. f.* [from *pretty*.] Beauty without dignity; neat elegance without elevation.
There is goodliness in the bodies of animals, as in the ox, greyhound and stag; or majesty and stateliness, as in the lion, horse, eagle and cock; grave awfulness, as in mastiffs; or elegance and *prettiness*, as in lesser dogs and most sort of birds; all which are several modes of beauty. *Mort.*
Those drops of *prettiness*, scattering sprinkled amongst the creatures, were designed to delectate and exalt our conceptions, not to inveigle or detain our passions. *Locke.*
- PRETTY. *adj.* [*præter*, finery, Sax. *pretto*, Italian; *prat*, *prattig*, Dutch.]
1. Neat; elegant; pleasing without surprise or elevation.
Of these the idle Greeks have many *pretty* tales. *Raleigh.*
They found themselves involved in a train of mistakes, by taking up some *pretty* hypothesis in philosophy. *Watts.*
2. Beautiful without grandeur or dignity.
The *pretty* gentleman is the most complaisant creature in the world, and is always of my mind. *Spectator.*
3. It is used in a kind of diminutive contempt in poetry, and in conversation: as, a *pretty fellow* indeed!
A *pretty* task; and so I told the fool,
Who needs must undertake to please by rule. *Dryden.*
He'll make a *pretty* figure in a triumph,
And serve to trip before the victor's chariot. *Addison.*
4. Not very small. This is a very vulgar use.
A knight of Wales, with shipping and some *pretty* company, did go to discover those parts. *Abbot.*
Cut off the stalks of cucumbers, immediately after their bearing, close by the earth, and then cast a *pretty* quantity of earth upon the plant, and they will bear next year before the ordinary time. *Bacon's Nat. Hist.*
I would have a mount of some *pretty* height, leaving the wall of the enclosure breast high. *Bacon's Essays.*
Of this mixture we put a parcel into a crucible, and suffered it for a *pretty* while to continue red hot. *Boyle.*
A weazel a *pretty* way off stood leaning at him. *L'Estr.*
- PRETTY. *adv.* In some degree. This word is used before adverbs or adjectives to intend their signification: it is less than very.
The world begun to be *pretty* well stocked with people, and human industry drained those uninhabited places. *Burnet.*
I shall not enquire how far this lofty method may advance the reputation of learning; but I am *pretty* sure 'tis no great addition to theirs who use it. *Collier.*
A little voyage round the lake took up five days, though the wind was *pretty* fair for us all the while. *Addison.*
I have a fondness for a project, and a *pretty* tolerable genius that way myself. *Addison's Guardian, N° 107.*
These colours were faint and dilute, unless the light was trajected obliquely; for by that means they became *pretty* vivid. *Newton's Opticks.*
This writer every where insinuates, and, in one place, *pretty* plainly professes himself a sincere christian. *Atterbury.*
The copper halpence are coined by the publick, and every piece worth *pretty* near the value of the copper. *Swift.*
The first attempts of this kind were *pretty* modest. *Baker.*
- To PREVAIL. *v. n.* [*prevaleo*, Fr. *prevaleo*, Lat.]
1. To be in force; to have effect; to have power; to have influence.
This custom makes the short-sighted bigots, and the warrier scepticks, as far as it *prevails*. *Locke.*
2. To overcome; to gain the superiority. With *on* or *upon*, sometimes *over* or *against*.
They that were your enemies, are his,
And have *prevail'd* as much on him as you. *Shakespeare.*
Nor is it hard for thee to preserve me amidst the unjust hatred and jealousy of too many, which thou hast suffered to *prevail* upon me. *King Charles.*
I told you then he should *prevail*, and speed
On his bad errand. *Milton.*
The millenium *prevailed* long against the truth upon the strength of authority. *Decay of Piety.*
While Malbro's cannon thus *prevails* by land,
Britain's sea-chiefs by Anna's high command,
Reckless o'er the *Thracian* billows ride. *Blackmore.*
Thus long could *prevail*
O'er death and o'er hell,
A conquest how hard and how glorious;
Though fate had fast bound her
With Styx nine times round her,
Yet music and love were victorious. *Pope.*
This kingdom could never *prevail* against the united power of England. *Swift.*
3. To gain influence; to operate effectually.
To persuade or induce by entreaty. It has *with*, *upon* or *on* before the person persuaded.
With minds obdurate nothing *prevail'd*, as well they that preach, as they that read unto such, shall still have cause to complain with the prophets of old, who will give credit unto our teaching? *Hooker, b. v. f. 22.*
He was *prevail'd* with to restrain the earl of Bristol upon his first arrival. *Clarendon.*
The serpent *with* me
Persuasively have *he prevail'd*, that I
Have also tasted. *Milton.*
They are more in danger to go out of the way, who are marching under the conduct of a guide, than it is an hundred to one will mislead them, than he that has not yet taken a step, and is likelier to be *prevail'd* on to enquire after the right way. *Locke.*
There are four sorts of arguments that men, in their reasonings with others, make use of to *prevail* on them. *Locke.*

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- The gods pray
He would resume the conduct of the day,
Nor let the world be lost in endless night;
Prevail'd upon at last, again he took
The harnes'd steeds, that fill with horror shook. *Addison.*
Upon assurances of revolt, the queen was *prevail'd* with to send her forces upon that expedition. *Swift.*
Prevail upon some judicious friend to be your constant hearer, and allow him the utmost freedom. *Swift.*
- PREVAILING. *adj.* [from *prevail*.] Predominant; having most influence.
Probabilities, which cross men's appetites and *prevailing* passions, run the same fate: let never so much probability hang on one side of a covetous man's reasoning, and money on the other, it is easy to foresee which will outweigh. *Locke.*
Save the friendless infants from oppression;
Saints shall assist thee with *prevailing* prayers,
And warring angels combat on thy side. *Rousseau.*
- PREVAILMENT. *n. f.* [from *prevail*.] Prevalence.
Messengers
Of strong *prevailment* in unhard'n'd youth. *Shakespeare.*
- PREVALENCE. *n. f.* [*prevaleo*, Fr. *prevaleo*, low Lat.]
PREVALENCY. } Superiority; influence; predominance.
The duke better knew, what kind of arguments were of *prevaleo* with him. *Clarendon.*
Others finding that, in former times, many churchmen were employed in the civil government, imputed their wanting of these ornaments their predecessors wore, to the power and *prevaleo* of the lawyers. *Clarendon.*
Animals, whose force supply the use of arms, hold, if not an equality in both, a *prevaleo* oft times in the other. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*
- Why, fair one, would you not rely
On reason's force with beauty's joiu'd;
Could I their *prevaleo* deny,
I must at once be deaf and blind. *Prior.*
Least of all does this precept imply, that we should comply with any thing that the *prevaleo* of corrupt fashion has made reputable. *Rogers's Sermons.*
- PREVALENT. *adj.* [*prevaleo*, Lat.] Victorious; gaining superiority.
Brennus told the Roman ambassadors, that *prevaleo* arms were as good as any title, and that valiant men might account to be their own as much as they could get. *Raleigh.*
On the foughten field,
Michael and his angels *prevaleo* encamping. *Milton.*
The conduct of a peculiar providence made the instruments of that great design *prevaleo* and victorious, and all those mountains of opposition to become plains. *South's Sermons.*
2. Predominant; powerful.
Eve! easily may faith admit, that all
The good which we enjoy, from heav'n descends;
But, that from us ought should ascend to heav'n,
So *prevaleo*, as to concern the mind
Of God high-bless'd; or to incline his will;
Hard to belief may seem. *Milton's Par. Lost.*
This was the most received and *prevaleo* opinion, when I first brought my collection up to London. *Woodward.*
- PREVALENTLY. *adv.* [from *prevaleo*.] Powerfully; forcibly.
The evening-star so falls into the main,
To rise at morn more *prevaleo* bright. *Prior.*
- To PREVARICATE. *v. n.* [*prevariatio*, Lat. *prevariquer*, Fr.] To cavil; to quibble; to shuffle.
Laws are either disannul'd or quite *prevariated* through change and alteration of times, yet they are good in themselves. *Spenser.*
He *prevariates* with his own understanding, and cannot seriously consider the strength, and discern the evidence of arguments against his desires. *South.*
Whoever helped him to this citation, I desire he will never trust him more; for I would think better of himself, than that he would wilfully *prevariate*. *Stillingfleet.*
- PREVARICATION. *n. f.* [*prevariatio*, Lat. *prevariation*, Fr. from *prevariate*.] Shuffle; cavil.
Several Romans, taken prisoners by Hannibal, were released upon obliging themselves by an oath to return again to his camp: among these was one, who, thinking to elude the oath, went the same day back to the camp, on pretence of having forgot something; but this *prevariation* was so shock-ing to the Roman senate, that they ordered him to be delivered up to Hannibal. *Addison's Frecholder.*
- PREVARICATOR. *n. f.* [*prevariator*, Lat. *prevariateur*, Fr. from *prevariate*.] A caviller; a shuffler.
- PREVENT. *adj.* [*prævenio*, Lat.] Preceding; going before; preventive.
From the mercy-seat above
Prevent grace descending, had remov'd
The stony from their hearts, and made new flesh
Regenerate grow instead. *Milton's Par. Lost.*
To PREVENT. *v. a.* [*prævenio*, Lat.] To hinder.
If thy indulgent care
Had not *prevent'd*, among unbody'd shades
I now had wander'd. *Philips.*

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To PREVENT.